WlTKZ

The Spark Gap

SEPTEMBER 1985

Book X Vol IX

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

President's Message

by Tom Kinahan, NlCPE

I hope everyone had a good summer. I did. I have a bunch of things to tell you about that are planned for this fall, but first I want to thanks Nels Anderson for a fine job last year as President, and we all look forward his fine work as Recording Secretary this year and his continued excellent award winning job as Editor of the Spark Gap.

At the August planning meeting held on the 16th, we had some good discussions about what we should do to increase participation and the future of WARS. We are going to start the year off with a business meeting on September 5th and a real nice program for the 19th on the space shuttle. WARS member and EMass ARRL Technical Coordinator, Mort Cohan, KAlIU, will drop by and show us some of the spectacular pictures that were sent on 2 meter SSTV by W0ORE and crew in the Space Shuttle Challenger. Mort will be joined by Kathy Pate, KAlIYR, who will be there to discuss her 2 way contact with W0ORE.

Keep in mind the following events this fall:

The September VHF contest from Mt. Equinox Vt. (September 14-15). We really go pretty much all out on this one, and in the past few years, have been in the top 10 stations in the country from there. Ever try to work one of those elusive DX stations in some exotic land, and wish you too could some day have to deal with a pileup on you? Ever want to be the loudest signal on? This is what WlTKZ is from Mt. Equinox on seven bands. The legal limit and 3800 feet of mountain below is all you need. If you have a Technician class license or higher come on up and operate, if not, just come up to enjoy the gorgeous view and the country Inns.

In October, a Simulated Emergency Test, and in November, the November Sweepstakes. The S.E.T. will be a good experience for everyone to get a chance to practice their communications skills in a Simulated Emergency situation that happens right here in Wellesley! November Sweepstakes is a good chance for everyone to get some operating in under tight band conditions. It's lots of fun, hopefully we'll be on 75, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters if the bands hold out. On both of these events Novices and Technicians are welcome, and in fact particularly invited to attend. We want you to take a look at how much fun voice HF can be and maybe you'll like it enough to upgrade.

Hopefully within a month or so our station at the Red Cross will be on the air with a vertical and the club station, WlTKZ, will be open for members to go down and operate whenever they like. It will be excellent for people just starting out to determine what they want in a station and for

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:
September 5, 1985, at 7:30 p.m.
September 19, 1985, at 7:30 p.m.
211 Washington St., Wellesley

those that live where large cumbersome antennas aren't allowed (like me!).

Unless otherwise published, the first Thursday of each month will be a business meeting and the third will be dedicated to a program of interest to Amateur Radio operators.

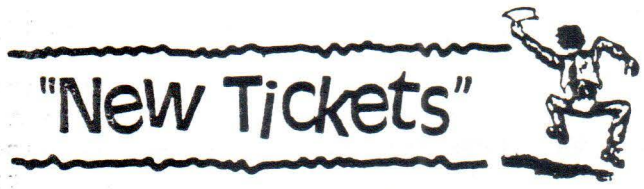
If you have an idea for a program you might want to hear or you might like to give a program on your favorite facet of ham radio, let Art Thompson, KA1ENP, your Corresponding Secretary know, and he'll try to get it on the schedule. Some of the others helping to arrange speakers and programs are Rita Baker, N1DDI; your Veep, and Thomas Burton, KX1H; your Fund Raising Chairman.

I hope to see you all on the 5th and again on the 19th.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Number 71, dated August 14, 1985:

Acting on PR Docket 84-960, FCC has announced the availability of 902 to 928 MHz for use by all Radio Amateurs above the Novice class, effective at 0001 UTC September 28, 1985. Amateur use of the new band must be on a secondary, non-interference basis. Emission types non, A1A, A2A, A2B, A3E, A3C, A3F, F1B, F2B, F3E, G3E, F3C, F3F, F8E and pon have been authorized. In a related action, FCC restricted use of the 902 to 928 MHz band at the White Sands Missile Range. Amateur use of the band is prohibited inside the range, and use for 150 miles outside the range is restricted to a maximum transmitter peak envelope power of 50 watts. See QST for further details.



Congratulations to Vern Valero who received his Novice callsign KA1MZJ back in June. Vern was a member of our spring Novice class.

NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Welcome to Jed Weare, G3VVH, who joined back in June.

Hamnews

A recent attempt to burglarize the home of a ham was foiled by a 2 meter radio. When Richard Tyner's (WØUDP) home was entered by burglars, nothing was taken. Later, when the suspects were apprehended by the Sheriff's Office, they were asked why they did not go through with the burglary. They said that they "heard voices" and beat a hasty retreat. You guessed it: the voices were coming from the two meter FM rig WØUDP had left tuned to a local repeater. Thanks Worldradio News.

Westlink Report, August 9, 1985

OFFICERS

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The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

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THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, FCC RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR. ITEMS PRINTED IN THE "SPARK GAP" MAY BE REPRINTED BY OTHER AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED THE AUTHOR AND THE "SPARK GAP" ARE GIVEN CREDIT.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS $8.00. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
211 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181

MINUTES

Meeting of May 30, 1985:

The meeting opened at 7:35 p.m. by K1UR.

There was no Secretary's report.

Treasurer's report accepted.

Field Day was discussed. The Town of Wellesley has given approval for us to use the grounds at the Town Hall again this year, but due to construction in the building access is not allowed. The permit is contingent on us providing restroom facilities. Looking into other alternatives.

VHF Contest discussed.

The status of the Maugus Hill receive site and the old repeater transmitter were discussed. It is thought that we could use the radios at the receive site but that we might try to sell the transmitter that is in the Newton - Wellesley Hospital.

Election of officers for next year was held.

Meeting closed at 7:55 p.m. followed by a slide show from this years BAA Boston Marathon.

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Meeting of June 6, 1985:

The meeting opened at 7:45 p.m. by K1UR.

Treasurer's report accepted.

Secretary's report accepted.

Field Day sites discussed. Red Cross has OK'd use of their grounds; looking into Sprague School as a possible site.

The VHF contest was disussed.

Welcomed a new member, Jed W. Weare, G3VVH.

Mort Cohan, KA1IU, proposed that the Society join the Assistant Technical Coordinator program as a 'Corporate' ATC. This means technical questions that the ARRL might receive from this area would be referred to us and the person needing assistance would be invited to a club meeting to have his question answered. The advantages are that he has a group that can regularly respond to technical questions and we become aware of prospective new members. Seconded and Approved.

Meeting closed at 8:06 p.m.

After the meeting, we began packing equipment for the VHF contest the following weekend.

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Meeting of June 20, 1985:

Meeting opened at 8:05 p.m. by K1UR.

Secretary's report read and accepted.

Discussion of Field Day preparations; was decided that, due to the number of people interested in attending (3) we could not put forth the proper effort and decided not to participate this year.

A discussion of what we could do to get people more involved in the activities of the club followed. We have nearly 100 members but only 7 to 10 attend meetings. Some ideas were presented including raising dues to $20, giving a Wellesley A.R.S. T-shirt to members. We commented that many people join our club to support the repeater, so we get $8 from them which goes to pay for their issues of the Spark Gap. It NEVER gets to the repeater. What can we do to increase participation? We participate in VHF contests, Sweepstakes, Field Day (till this year), have a club repeater, a net, when we have a station it doesn't get used. What can we do to make more people active?

Meeting closed at 9:00, and the discussion continued.

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Meeting of August 15, 1985:

The meeting was opened at 7:39 p.m. by Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, with 13 present.

The Treasurer's report was given. Included was a summary of last years expenses compared to what was budgeted.

The repeater final amplifier transistor failed and was repaired by the manufacturer for no cost, even though it was out of warranty. Part of the old receive site on Maugus Hill was removed on August 8.

The calendar of activities for the upcoming year were discussed.

The meeting was closed at 9:16 p.m.

VHF CONTEST

by Nels Anderson, K1UR

On the weekend of June 8-9 we once again made the trek to Mt. Equinox in Manchester, Vermont for the ARRL June VHF QSO Party. With some equipment improvements (as usual) and new gear on the 2304 MHz band, we went up with high expectations. Though there were no really spectacular band conditions, we did not go home disappointed.

The weather was the big question for the weekend, with rain predicted for the entire period. As it turned out, it was not nearly as bad as was expected. We did have some brief showers during set up on Saturday morning, but everyone was prepared with appropriate clothing so they were not a problem. The rain stopped around noon and we finished setting up with no problems. Saturday night and much of Sunday were clear and fairly pleasant, but on Sunday night the storms came back with a little rain and a lot of wind.

How were the bands? Well, six meters was probably the most interesting though conditions there were very spotty. Our most distant contact was in Wyoming and there were quite a few in the mid-west, Texas, etc. but there was no real pattern to it. There were enough of these kind of contacts to make things interesting though. On the higher bands there was little excitement until Sunday afternoon when we had some aurora bringing stations from the 8th and 9th call areas. Aurora is always fun with the strange, buzzing sound of the CW signals that come through.

Our final results were as follows:

BAND:	QSOS:	GRIDS:
50	321	89
144	416	57
220	61	22
432	105	27
1296	31	14
2304	3	3
10000	3	3

SCORE: 940 QSO'S
215 GRIDS
253,700 POINTS

The following people made the trip this June: K1TK, N1CPE, W1GCI, N1ADY, WB1BUM, VE3CGL, WA2TIF, K1UR, WA1ZLQ, KA1IU, WB1BUV.